

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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TOPIC Military Information from Oranienburg

EVALUATION [REDACTED]

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

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DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE PREPARED 19 January 1954

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REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS [REDACTED]

SOURCE [REDACTED]

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1. On 14 December 1953, the Weisse Stadt Settlement in Oranienburg was occupied by about 1,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery, signal and motor transport insignia. Individual officers wore blue-bordered black epaulets with engineer and signal insignia. On 12 December, about 80 soldiers assembled in the billeting area while about 40 other soldiers received basic training. [REDACTED] 1 [REDACTED]

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2. On 14 December, the SS Kaserne and former concentration camp quartered about 1,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery and motor transport insignia. On 14 December, about 60 troops engaged in athletic exercises near installation No 150. No other training activity was noticed. [REDACTED] 2 [REDACTED]

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3. On 12 December, the Weisse Stadt Settlement was occupied to capacity. On 12 December, about 30 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets received training in the area north of the railroad line, between the railroad crossing over Baerenklauweg and Baerenklaubruecke. The troops returned to their quarters at about 3 p.m. Shortly before, about 70 soldiers were seen at a field exercise south of the railroad line and west of Oranienburg Kanal. 1

4. On 7 December, an envelope addressed to a soldier of Unit [REDACTED] postmarked 19 November 1953, examined by Censorship Office and mailed by a soldier of Unit [REDACTED] was found on the road north of the railroad station and south of the Weisse Stadt Settlement. 3 (C-400)

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5. In December, source determined that building No 8 in the Weisse Stadt Settlement was occupied by troops who wore black-bordered crimson epaulets and belonged to a topographic unit. [REDACTED] was written on a blackboard in front of the entrance to this building. Troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets were several times seen leaving building No 7. Building No 6 partly served as billets for officers wearing tank insignia. Building

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No 5 quartered officers of the topographic unit, while buildings No 11 and 12 quartered troops who wore artillery insignia. Motor vehicles identified at the installation [redacted]

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6. Between 31 November and 4 December, source learned that the crews of the 10 T-34 tanks parked in garage No 30 in the Weisse Stadt Settlement were quartered in building No 9 of the settlement. They wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Major Sherbak (fnu) was supply officer of the unit while the commanding officer was one Lieutenant Colonel Aterlee (fnu). About 20 soldiers drilled with 2 x 37-mm AA guns behind garage No 35. Eight other 37-mm AA guns stood nearby. The crews were quartered in building No 6. Major Burakov (fnu) was supply officer of the unit. One Lieutenant Colonel Shuravkov (fnu) was supply officer of the signal unit in building No 14. The unit was equipped with an estimated 100 motorcycles. Building No 3, which had been scheduled to serve as billets for officer dependents had not been reconditioned as the air force unit did not give up the building for this purpose. On 3 December, the Weisse Stadt settlement was inspected by a general. Lieutenant Colonel Kuleshov (fnu) went to the USSR on recreation leave on 1 or 2 December. Colonel Paskevski (fnu), chief of the construction section of the Kech, was the superior to Major Gonshekov (fnu).
7. Rocket launchers that left the Weisse Stadt toward Schmachtenhagen between 11 and 21 December included 9 on 14 December, 7 on 15 December, 8 on 16 December and 6 on 17 December. About an hour after the rocket launchers had left, 15 to 20 reports were heard from the wooded area between Lehnitzschleuse and Schmachtenhagen. 1
8. At about 6:15 p.m. on 13 December, a column of 7 trucks, each towing a 85-mm AA gun, was en route between Oranienburg and Velten. Truck [redacted] was identified. On 7 December, 5 x 132-mm rocket launchers entered the restricted Weisse Stadt settlement from the direction of Bernauer Strasse and, on 13 December, 7 x 132-mm rocket launchers entered the installation from the direction of Birkenwerder. 1 On 16 December, source determined 8 BA-64 armored scout cars at the loading ramp of Oranienburg railroad station. The BA-64s had probably been unloaded.
9. At about 8:20 a.m. on 27 November, a train of 14 boxcars occupied to capacity by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets passed through the Oranienburg freight station from the direction of Neustrelitz and proceeded toward Jueterbog. At about 11 a.m. on 8 December, a boxcar with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 3 flatcars with sideracks carrying 3 canvas-covered T-34 tanks passed through the same freight station from the direction of Jueterbog and proceeded toward Eberswalde.
10. In December, the SS Kaserne and the concentration camp were occupied by about 2,000 troops. Double sentries of the tank training unit stood in front of buildings No 145, 146, and 147. Six armored personnel carriers were parked in the installation No 146. Building No 143 was closed and unguarded. At 3:40 p.m. on 8 December, 12 Soviet women in civilian clothes, carrying small suitcases and cardboard boxes entered the billeting area from the direction of the railroad station, accompanied by a soldier with red-bordered black epaulets. On 11 December, 4 new, [redacted] prime movers entered the billeting area. On 12 December, 4 new, [redacted] armored

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personnel carriers drove along Sachsenhausen Strasse toward Sachsenhausen. On 13 December, about 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia, and about 40 to 50 uniformed women wearing red-bordered black epaulets left the installation toward the Schuetzenhaus. Eight to ten trucks of the driving school unit practiced in the area near the cemetery. About 350 soldiers with tank insignia trained with dummy tanks and received instruction and 150 other soldiers engaged in athletic exercises daily near buildings No 148, 149 and 150. There was intensive vehicular traffic between the concentration camp and the Weisse Stadt Settlement. Trucks [ ] were identified. Several trucks, each occupied by about 20 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, went to the target range near the Klinkerwerk at about 9 a.m. daily. 2

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11. On 11 December, 6 x 132-mm rocket launchers were parked in garage No 36 in the Weisse Stadt Settlement. Garage No 25 was closed. On 10 December, two barges guarded by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia were moored at Luise-Henrietten-Steg (stage). At about 10:30 a.m., Post Strasse and Havel Strasse were blocked as the barges, which carried billeting equipment, were unloaded into numerous trucks. The barges left on 11 December. Residents [ ] that they had come from Zehdenik. On 6 December, about 40 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia laid cables along wire trenches in the woods in front of Sommerswalde Castle. Trucks [ ] were identified with the troops. 1

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1. [ ] Comment. Compared with the last reports of late November, report indicates no changes in the occupation of the Weisse Stadt. See [ ]. Report also confirms and supplements the distribution of units of the 25 Tank Div in the restricted area. It indicates that the 219th (?) AAA Regt is quartered in building No 6 and garage No 35, and vehicles of the 16th (?) Gds RL Bn are parked in garage No 31 in addition to garage 36. The numbered buildings are keyed to a sketch forwarded previously. See [ ]. The officers are known. They include Lieutenant Colonel Aterisee (fnu) who is believed to be commanding officer of the 53d Mtrcl Bn and Major Sherbak (fnu) as supply officer of the battalion, Major Burakov (fnu) as supply officer of the 219th (?) AAA Regt and Lieutenant Colonel Shuravkov (fnu) as supply officer of the unidentified signal battalion of the division.

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2. [ ] Comment. Paragraph 10 of the report tends to indicate that the SS Kaserne and the concentration camp at Sachsenhausen were more heavily occupied as has so far been observed. See [ ]. It is assumed that, except for the unidentified tank training battalion and the unidentified motor transportation battalion of the 25th Tank Div, the 162d Tank Regt of the division is also stationed there. This possibility had also been voiced in the referenced report. The assumption is supported by the information that tank troops who, obviously, did not belong to the tank training battalion, were seen near buildings No 148 through 150. The numbered buildings are keyed to a sketch forwarded previously. See [ ].

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3. [ ] Comment. [ ] has repeatedly been identified in Eberswalde. [ ] belongs to the 53d Mtrcl Bn of the 25th Tank Div in Oranienburg. The battalion was previously confirmed until 2 December.